

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 12-18 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice in response to previous restriction requirements.

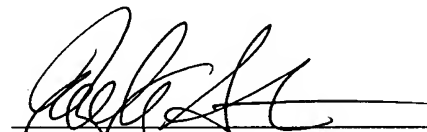
In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 18 was indicated as being directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed, and Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter. In the interest of compact prosecution, Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to place this application in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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